



# FLASH



May 2024



## Berks Nature Municipal Networking for Conservation

Connect with fellow municipal officials and learn about local conservation resources while enjoying a **FREE LUNCH** catered by DoubleTree. Thomas West, AICP, Principal of Greener Planning LLC, will also give a special presentation sharing new tools for understanding the value of your local environment.

Make new connections and find inspiration for sustainable natural resource management in your municipality!

**June 6, 2024**  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
**The Nature Place**  
575 Saint Bernardine Street  
Reading

**RSVP Required**  
by **May 23rd** to Tami Shimp  
[tami.shimp@berksnature.org](mailto:tami.shimp@berksnature.org)

## Berks Nature 50/50 Conversations

In celebration of serving nature for 50 years, Berks Nature is holding public input forums. Please see below remaining dates and registration information. You're invited to share these dates with your elected officials and residents.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

- May 22 | Noon** **VIRTUAL** - a link will be provided upon registration
- May 23 | 8 AM** **Heidelberg Family Restaurant**  
910 W Penn Ave. • Robesonia  
*Breakfast will be provided*
- June 25 | Noon** **The Nature Place**  
575 Saint Bernardine St. • Reading  
*Lunch will be provided*
- June 25 | 3 PM** **VIRTUAL** - a link will be provided upon registration
- July 9 | Noon** **The Nature Place**  
575 Saint Bernardine St. • Reading  
*Lunch will be provided*
- July 16 | 8 AM** **The Nature Place**  
575 Saint Bernardine St. • Reading  
*Breakfast will be provided*
- Aug. 8 | 7 PM** **Kutztown Tavern**  
272 W Main St. • Kutztown  
*Breakfast will be provided*
- Sept. 16 | Noon** **Yellowhouse Hotel**  
6743 Boyertown Pike • Douglasville  
*Lunch will be provided*
- Sept. 17 | Noon** **VIRTUAL** - a link will be provided upon registration
- Oct. 9 | 6 PM** **Berkshire Country Club**  
1637 Bernville Road • Reading  
*Lunch will be provided*



## 2024 Downtown Walking Tour

Reading-Berks Association of REALTORS® Commercial & Industrial Council is excited to host its **FREE** Downtown Reading Walking Tour.

This rain or shine event provides business owners, commercial REALTORS® and other community leaders the opportunity to embark on a guided walking tour of available office and retail in Downtown Reading.

**When:** Thursday May 16th, 2024

**Registration:** 8:00 am at Alvernia College Towne John R. Post Center. Starbucks available for purchase at registration location.

**Welcome & Tour:** 8:30 am - Noon. Guided walking tour with presentation from a property representative at each location.

Featured properties included on the tour:  
**American House, 401 Penn St. • 503 Penn St.**  
**35 N 6th St. • 606 Court St.**

**Lunch:** Each person to receive a voucher (up to \$15) for one of four local restaurants, courtesy of the City of Reading: Salt & Light Café, Rio Café, Café de Colombia, Saucony Creek Brewing Company

**REGISTER HERE**

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY  
THE BERKS COUNTY PLANNING  
COMMISSION NO LONGER  
ACCEPTS FAXES**





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## The SWAG Bus is here

On May 4th, The Berks County Conservation District revealed for the first time the SWAG Bus, which stands for Soil, Water and Agriculture. The SWAG Bus is a mobile educational center with many activities that kids and adults alike can parttake in. Highlights of the bus include an augmented reality sandbox along with other hands-on displays to interact with.

If you'd like more information or would like to book the bus, contact [Jennifer Brooks](#) at Berks County Conservation District.



## Expanding Recreation Access in Small Communities

Trying to complete multiple upgrades to a park all at once can be overwhelming and costly, especially for small communities with limited capacity. DCNR's [Small Communities Program](#) can help. It caters to municipalities with populations of 5,000 or less and is a unique grant type with smaller match requirements.

The Small Communities Program prioritizes park rehabilitation but development of new outdoor recreation and park facilities is also eligible. Communities are encouraged to break larger projects into phases to make the work more feasible and meet funding requirements.

The maximum grant request recently increased to allow the Small Communities Program to support even larger projects. Applicants can now request up to \$100,000 in funding from DCNR, with a match requirement of \$70,000. Both cash and non-cash match are accepted.

The Planning Commission encourages you, the municipalities to review the [County Greenway Park and Recreation Plan](#) to provide guidance for creating a project to submit next year to the Small Communities Program.



## 33rd Annual World War II Weekend

Attend the original WWII living history event and airshow, featuring special guests, live entertainment, over 1,200 re-enactors, 200 period vehicles, and 80 vintage aircraft. Battle re-enactments, vehicle parade, military encampments, WWII aircraft rides, large military flea market, Friday and Saturday night hangar dance, and much more.

**When:** June 7th - 9th

### Mid-Atlantic Air Museum

11 Museum Drive  
Reading, PA 19605

[Tickets are available here](#)

also at the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum, Redner's or Boscov's stores.

